

**JULIE GREEN—MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE**  
**Sexual Assault Reporting**  
**Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Justice—February 20, 2019**

**MS. GREEN:** Yes, thank you. This seems like a good time to ask the Minister again about community approaches to sexual assault reporting and sexual assault charges that can be reviewed. Last week he didn't have any answers to these questions about when or how this would happen, and I am wondering if he has been able to obtain more information that he would like to share with us now. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Minister Sebert.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you. I don't know if I have anything really new than the information that I provided in the House last week. We are, of course, aware about how important this issue is, and we are continuing to work with the RCMP with respect to this matter. Of course, this arose out of a report in 2017 in the Globe and Mail and led to questions about this whole issue, not only in this House, but across Canada, and the police have made efforts. In December 2017 the police released the results of their national review in a document called "The Way Forward," and this included actions to make the police more sensitive and aware, if I can put it that way, through training, to sexual assaults. So work is continuing in this important area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my concern in this area is that the series that kicked off the debate about third-party review of sexual assault complaints that are considered unfounded, this started two years ago, and the third-party reporting of sexual assaults has been requested since before that. My question for the Minister is: at what point are we going to see a justification for increasing the grants and contributions in this portion of the budget indicating that action is actually being taken on these two issues? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are working with our partners in the RCMP with respect to this important matter and, of course, once we determine the path forward, we likely would require further funding, if such funding is required, which would seem likely. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister has said a number of times how important this issue is, and yet I have to say that there is no progress on this issue. There is an examination of approaches, and a refinement of approaches, and consultation about approaches, but we're still no further toward implementing any approaches or training staff to use them. At what point is the Minister going to pick up some speed on this file and provide some solutions? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes. As I have mentioned numerous times, this is an important issue, and we do continue to work with our partners in the RCMP. Clearly the RCMP internally have made what I would suggest are significant advances arising out of the report that I referenced earlier called "The Way Forward: The RCMP's sexual assault review and victim support action plan." Now, we are working with the RCMP with respect to third-party reporting. That is an important issue, so progress has been made. Further progress is clearly needed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you. Yes, further progress is needed, and I would suggest it needs to happen in a quicker way. During our consideration of the business plan, the Minister told us that regular members of the G Division will be required to have completed the course called "Consent Law and Common Sexual Assault Myths" by the end of this fiscal year. Could the Minister update us with how many of the G Division staff have actually completed this training? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. All regular members will be required, as I understand it, to complete the Consent Law and Common Sexual Assault Myths course, which was specifically created to address the issues identified in the RCMP's sexual assault review and victim support action plan. As of January 21, 2019, 139 members, or 71.2 percent, have completed the course. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Minister for that information. So what are the chances that the remaining 29 percent of the members will have completed the training by the end of this fiscal year? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Of course, that is the objective, as I mentioned previously, to have all regular members complete this course. I don't have a date, but hopefully, as I say, all will be able to complete the course. I will check on that to see and inform committee, should they wish, as to progress. As I say, 139 members, I'm told, or 71.2 percent have completed the course. Clearly there is another 28.8 who need to. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. So at this point, Minister, you are not able to confirm whether or not all members will complete the course by the end of this fiscal year. Is that correct?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** No, I can't confirm that that would be done. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you. Well, that is the commitment that was made, and so I'm looking for an understanding about why that commitment can't be met. What's the problem? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** My understanding, Mr. Chair, is that that was the RCMP's commitment, and I certainly will keep committee and Members apprised as to progress, but, again, it's the commitment of the RCMP. There may be operational reasons why they could not get that done sooner rather than later. Clearly, it's an important issue, and most members have completed the course, most regular members. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you. Unfortunately, the overall message here is that, while the Minister says that this issue is important, the walk is not equivalent to the talk. I feel there is really room for improvement in this, and I encourage him to make those improvements as soon as possible. That's all for me, thank you.